



Enjoying our learning...
...aiming for excellence.

Bells Farm Primary School
Bells Farm Close, Druids Heath
Birmingham B14 5YG
Tel: 0121 675 8666
Headteacher: Miss T Williams

Behaviour for Learning: Pride
Value Word: Respect

Dear Parent / Carer,

Here are our attendance figures for each class:

Puffins – 93%

Toucans – 91%

Bluebirds – 96%

Robins – 95%

Kestrels – 93%

Eagles – 93%

Well done to Bluebirds who won a roll on Classopoly!

Parent Volunteers

We are delighted to be exploring opportunities for parents and carers to become more involved in school life. We are looking to develop a bank of parent volunteers who may be interested in supporting school trips, reading activities and other school events throughout the year. If this is something you would be interested in, please complete the Parent Volunteer Interest Form:

[Parent Volunteer Interest Form – Fill in form](#)



Completing the form does not commit you to volunteering, nor does it guarantee a volunteering opportunity. It simply helps us understand the level of interest within our school community. Please note that volunteers may be subject to safeguarding checks and school procedures before supporting activities. Initially, we are looking for volunteers to assist on educational visits.

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As part of our usual practice, volunteers would not normally be placed in activities involving their own child's class, as this helps ensure fairness and consistency for all pupils. We are keen to gauge interest and would encourage anyone interested in volunteering (which may include wider family members) to complete the form when it is shared.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are pleased to announce the introduction of several lunchtime clubs this term. These clubs have been prioritised initially for children who do not currently attend clubs outside of school, helping to ensure that all children have access to enriching experiences.

Our current lunchtime clubs include:

Monday - Arts and Crafts Club with Mrs Johnson

Tuesday - Lego Club with Mrs Hudson

Wednesday - Spanish Club with Mr Duca

Thursday - Cooking Club with Mrs Moore

Friday - Colouring Club with Mrs Johnson

The clubs have been extremely popular and it has been wonderful to see so many children enjoying these extra opportunities.

New Clubs After Half Term

Due to limited uptake of the Times Tables Rockstars Club and overwhelming popularity of Cooking Club, Mrs Moore will be running an after school Cooking Club from Thursday 5th November 3:30pm - 4:15pm. The charge for this club will be £3 per session (to cover ingredients).

Initially, cooking club will be open to KS2 pupils (Y3-Y6). If your child would like a place, please email the school clubs address clubs@bellsfrm.bham.sch.uk

Also, Homework Club will be replaced by Drama Club after half term. As in previous years, this club will take the starring roles in our whole school Christmas production. If you would like your child to take part please send an email to the clubs address above or speak to me on the door in the morning.

School Gates and Site Security

This week we have experienced a fault with the rear gate keypad. Thank you to parents who have shown patience and supported us whilst we work with contractors to resolve the issue.

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Once the gates have been closed at the end of the school day, we ask all parents collecting children from clubs or after-school provision to ensure that they close the gates behind them.

These gates provide an important additional layer of safeguarding and help prevent unauthorised access to the school site. Thank you for supporting us in keeping our children safe.

Safeguarding Update

Over the last two weeks you may have noticed an increased staff presence around the school gates before and after school.

This has been in response to reports of individuals spending time in the local area near the school gates. At no point have these individuals attempted to gain access to the school site and there has been no identified safeguarding risk to pupils. However, as safeguarding is always our number one priority, staff have been visible around the site to monitor the situation. The relevant authorities have been informed and we will continue to take a proactive approach where concerns are raised. If you notice anything that causes concern around the school gates, please inform the school immediately.

For our older pupils who walk home independently, we have reminded them to remain aware of their surroundings and, where possible, walk with friends. We would encourage families to reinforce these conversations at home.

Please be reassured that if there were ever any immediate risk to children, parents would be informed without delay.

Term Time Holidays

We would strongly encourage families to avoid taking holidays during term time wherever possible. Even a week of absence can have a significant impact on a child's learning, attendance record and overall progress. Lessons build upon previous learning and missed learning is often difficult to fully recover.

Current attendance regulations state that: **Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

We do, however, appreciate parents informing the school when their child will be absent. This helps us avoid unnecessary safeguarding concerns when children do not arrive at school as

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expected. Leave of absence request forms are available from the school office and should be completed at least two weeks before the anticipated absence, or as soon as you become aware that the absence will be required.

If you are requesting leave due to exceptional circumstances, the reasons must be clearly explained on your form and supporting evidence may be requested. The school is required to share attendance and leave of absence information with Birmingham Local Authority, who will consider whether a penalty notice should be issued in accordance with their published procedures. The decision to issue a penalty notice is made by the Local Authority and any income received from penalty notices does not come to the school.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us maximise every child's learning time.

Collection at the End of the School Day

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who collect their children promptly every day.

We have recently noticed an increase in the number of children being collected late at the end of the school day.

Reception and Year 1: Children should be collected by **3:25pm**. Classroom doors will close at **3:30pm** and any children not collected by this time will need to be collected from the school office. Children still not collected by 3:35 will be placed in After School Club and you will be charged for this.

Years 2 to 6: School finishes at **3:30pm**. Classroom doors close at **3:35pm**. Children who remain uncollected after this time will be placed in After School Club and you will be charged for this. This **should not** happen on a regular basis.

We fully understand that emergencies occasionally happen and will always support families where unexpected circumstances arise. However, regular late collection can be distressing for children and impacts staff who remain responsible for them after the school day has ended.

We would appreciate your support in ensuring that children are collected on time.

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Changes to Morning Entry Arrangements

Following a review of our site security arrangements, we have made the decision to keep the main front entrance closed during morning arrival times.

This change has been made to further strengthen safeguarding and ensure we maintain a secure site at the start of the school day.

- Reception and Year 1 children should continue entering through their usual classroom entrances.
- Children in all other year groups (Years 2 to 6) should enter via the main playground entrance.

We appreciate that this may add a few extra minutes to your morning routine, but we hope you understand that the safety and security of our children must always be our highest priority.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has already expressed an interest in becoming a Parent Governor at Bells Farm Primary School. It has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers keen to play an active role in supporting the school and helping to shape its future. Parent Governors bring an invaluable perspective to our Governing Body and help ensure the views of our wider school community are represented. If you are considering applying but have not yet submitted your nomination, please remember that applications close on **Monday**. We would encourage anyone interested in contributing to the continued success of our school to put themselves forward.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all families who booked a school lunch for their child on Census Day. Thanks to your support, we served **150 school lunches**, which is the highest number we have ever achieved and a fantastic record for Bells Farm Primary School. Not only did the children enjoy a delicious meal, but your support will also help secure additional funding for the school, allowing us to continue investing in resources, opportunities and experiences for our pupils. We are incredibly grateful for your support in making the day such a success.

Swimming Pool Arrivall

This weekend, work will begin on the installation of our temporary swimming pool, which is an exciting milestone for the school. The children have already been introduced to the pool

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through photographs in assembly and discussions in class, and many are looking forward to starting their lessons.

We recognise that some children may feel a little nervous about swimming, particularly if it is a new experience for them, and staff have already begun providing reassurance and support to help build their confidence. Over the coming week, children will have opportunities to ask questions and become familiar with what to expect before lessons begin.

We will also be sharing each child's swimming days and further information with parents next week, so please keep an eye out for this communication. We are incredibly excited to offer this opportunity and know it will be a valuable experience for all of our pupils.

Reminders

- Please remember to book your child's lunch via the school app.
- We are having ongoing issues with payments via the school app. While we await an outcome on these, please ensure you have spoken to Pauline in the office to book your child into wraparound care and discuss payment issues you may be having. We can't fully solve the issue without knowing who it is impacting so please do let her know.
- To find out more about what your child is learning in class you can find a full curriculum map on our school website here: [Curriculum – Bells Farm Primary School](#)
- You can also check out our class blogs here: [Class Blogs – Bells Farm Primary School](#)
- Please remember to report your child's absence to the school office - you can leave a voicemail or use the school app.
- Homework is given out on Friday to be completed by the following Wednesday. If your child is accessing online homework please look at our website here: [Accessing Home Learning Resources – Bells Farm Primary School](#) If you would prefer paper homework, please contact the school office or inform a member of staff on drop off or collection.

Kind regards,

Miss Williams
Headteacher

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Dates for your Diary

* Please note – changes and additions are highlighted

Thursday 8 th October	Y1 Maths Workshop	Letter sent
Friday 9 th October	Y5 Class Assembly – Harvest KES Orchestra Music Performance	Letter sent In school for Y1 – Y6
Monday 12 th October – Friday 23 rd October	Swimming lessons begin	Details sent and more to follow
Tuesday 20 th October	Open Day prospective parents Sept 2027	10:00 and 17:00
Wednesday 21 st October	Parents' Evening	Details to follow
Wednesday 4 th November	Reception Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 10 th November	Y4 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 17 th November	Y5 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 24 th November	Y2 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Thursday 26 th November	Y1 Reading and Phonics Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 1 st December	Y6 Maths Workshop	Details to follow
Tuesday 8 th December	Y3-Y6 Theatre Trip	Details to follow

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